COVID & DYSTOPIA:
transitional objects and space

spring 2021

april vendetta

presented by
HUMAN TRASH DUMP

ARTIST FORWARD

transitional objects and space is a digital document and interactive artist book that combines fragments of text, video, image, archiving, and performance art to compile my interactions with various modes of expression. In this book, I see my role as both a collaborator and witness during the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. Each fragment works to engage the viewer through a sensory experience that documents external/internal turmoil and reflection.

Text is displayed in three ways, first as a series of four-letter words starting with LO, which is edited as a layer on top of videos. Secondly, words that appear in the video recording environment. Lastly, words appear as written passages of poetic language and are arranged on the pages of this document to provide another way to reflect my thoughts and feelings. This work is being filmed, edited, and created in Brooklyn, NY, except for *neighborhood watch* made in 2017 in Omaha, NE (where I was born).

Within the book, there are images taken from a particular still frame of a given video. A link to each of the full-length videos is provided via a QR code. These videos are set in domestic and public spaces to document how everyday space is navigated while covid-19 remains present. A mask or a layering of two masks is worn outside. Signage indicates a social distancing rule to remain six feet apart—the number 500,000 (U.S. death toll from the virus, which has since increased) fades in and out on the screen.

Caution tape wraps around a fallen tree in the park
I shave my face
I flick a lighter in front of a skull mask
I incur student debt
I walk through the city and ride the subway
I perform in lingerie at night in the park for an art opening by Honey McMoney to TAX THE RICH
Ice begins to melt to make way for spring
I continue to exist and transition

ARTIST LEGEND

Lo - *interjection* - an expression of surprise in the phrase lo and behold.

{LO words that appear in these videos}
LOAD
LOAN
LOIN
LONE
LOOK
LOOM
LOOP
LOST
LOSE
LOSS
LOVE
LOWD
LOWE

{elements}
audio
experiential - senses
movement - body, camera connected to the body (zooming in/out, steady, pan)
text
video
web links

{concepts}
care or lack of care
control or lack of control (forces: who, what, when)
reflection
internal/external
limits (of the body)
resilience (of the body)

LINK TO VIDEOS

SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE

KEEP THIS FAR APART

500,000

Mourn
Morn
Morning is here
Morning will come again
Just like
Mourning will come again
Just like night
Just like daylight
Just like life
Mourning will come again
Without mourning
Without morning
Without night
Without daylight
Without out life there is no mourning

LOSE

LOST

FAIL OUT LOUD
LAY OUT LOUD
TO LIVE APART
TO LOVE APART
KEEP LOVE LOST
DO NOT LOOK LOWE
LOAN LIFE LESS
LIFE LESS LOAN

A LOAN
ALONE
ARE WE ALONE?
ARE WE A LOAN?
LOAN LONE LIFE
APART
THIS IS LIFE APART
ARE YOU AFRAID OF LIFE APART?
ARE YOU AFRAID OF

READY TO FAIL
I AM READY TO FAIL
IT IS OKAY TO FAIL

LOSE

LOSS

LONE

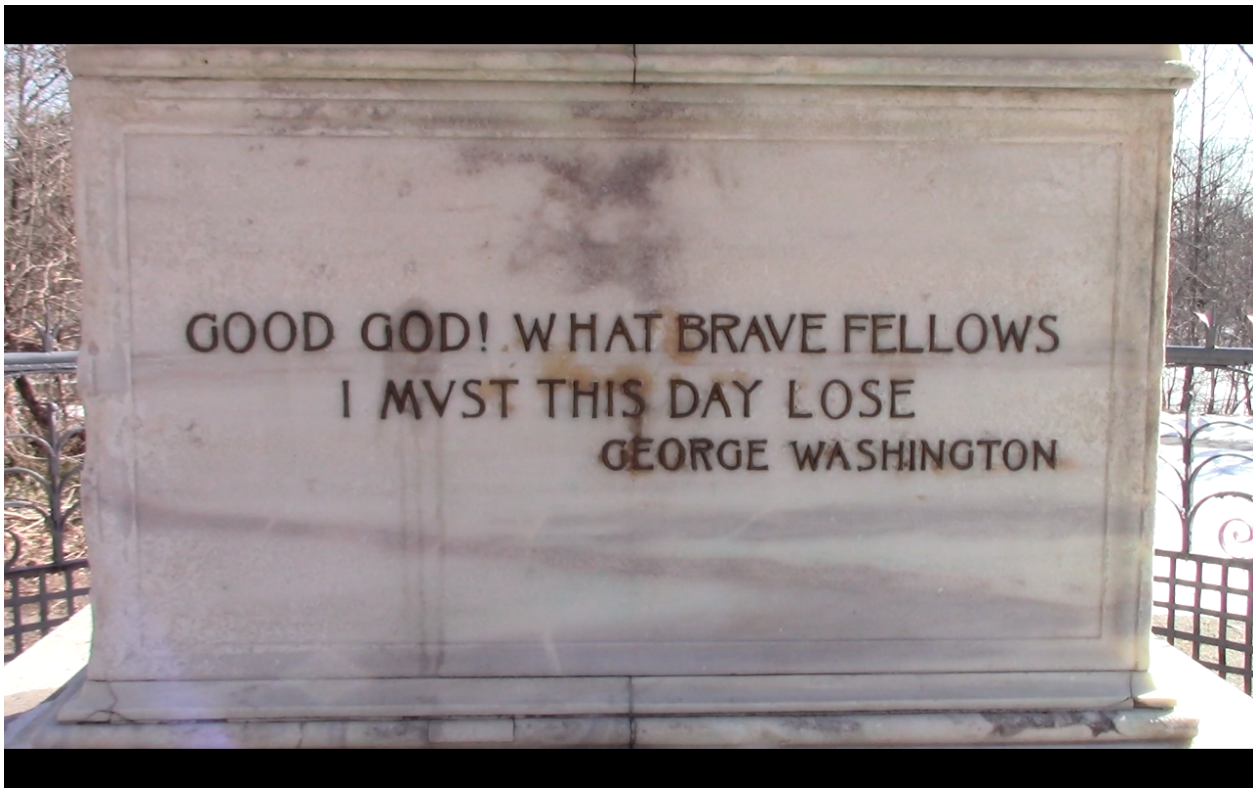
LOOM

LOWE

LOAD

LOAN

CANCEL
CAPITALISM
STUDENT
DEBT


GOOD GOD! WHAT BRAVE FELLOWS
I MVST THIS DAY LOSE
GEORGE WASHINGTON

to curate is to CARE
we must care for each other or else

we are not silos
we are not an island
we do not “create” in a vacuum

WE MUST CARE
WE MUST REPAIR

REPARATIONS is the ACT of REPAIR
WE MUST REPAIR

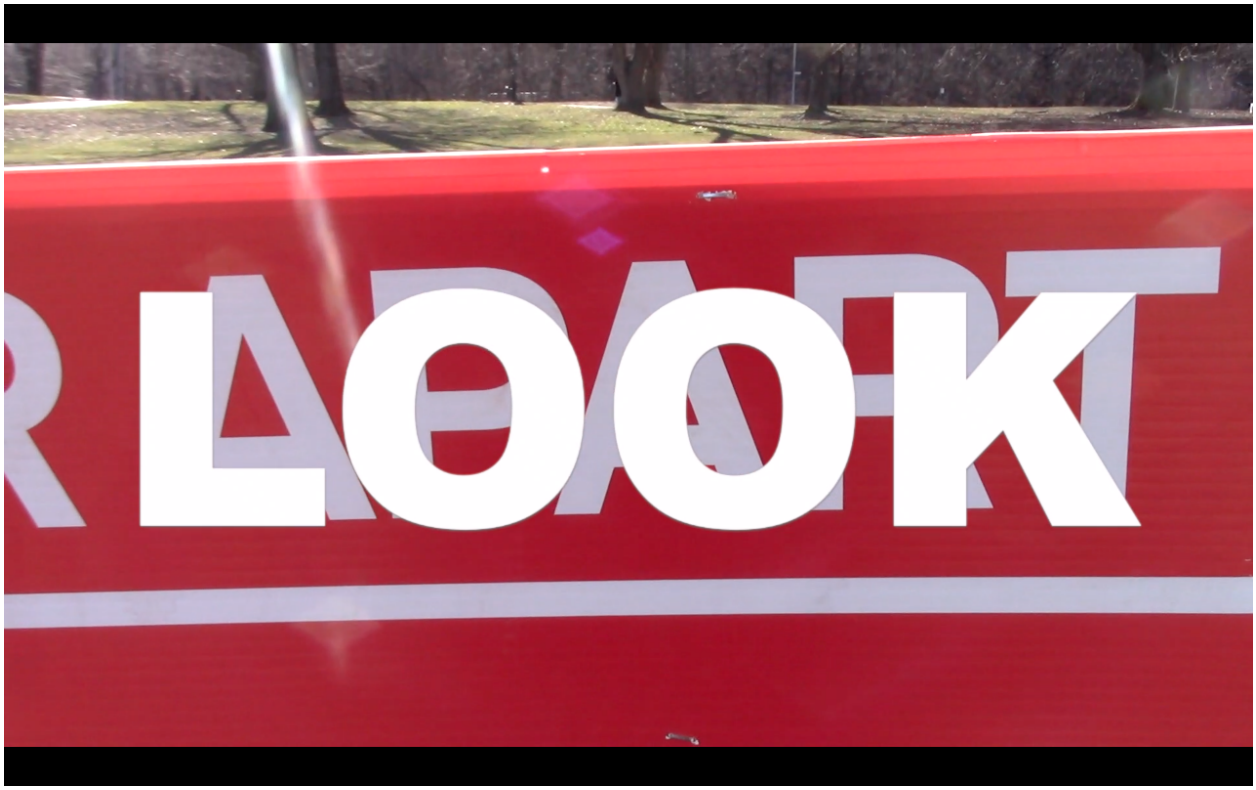
AN ACT OF LOVE
AN ACT OF CARE

LOVE

KEEP THIS FAR APART
LOOP

when we go back to normal…

We are not normal
We were never normal
Normal is nothing
Nothing to go back to
This it not about going back or even going forward
How can we just be?


LOOK

LOWD

LOWD

LOWD

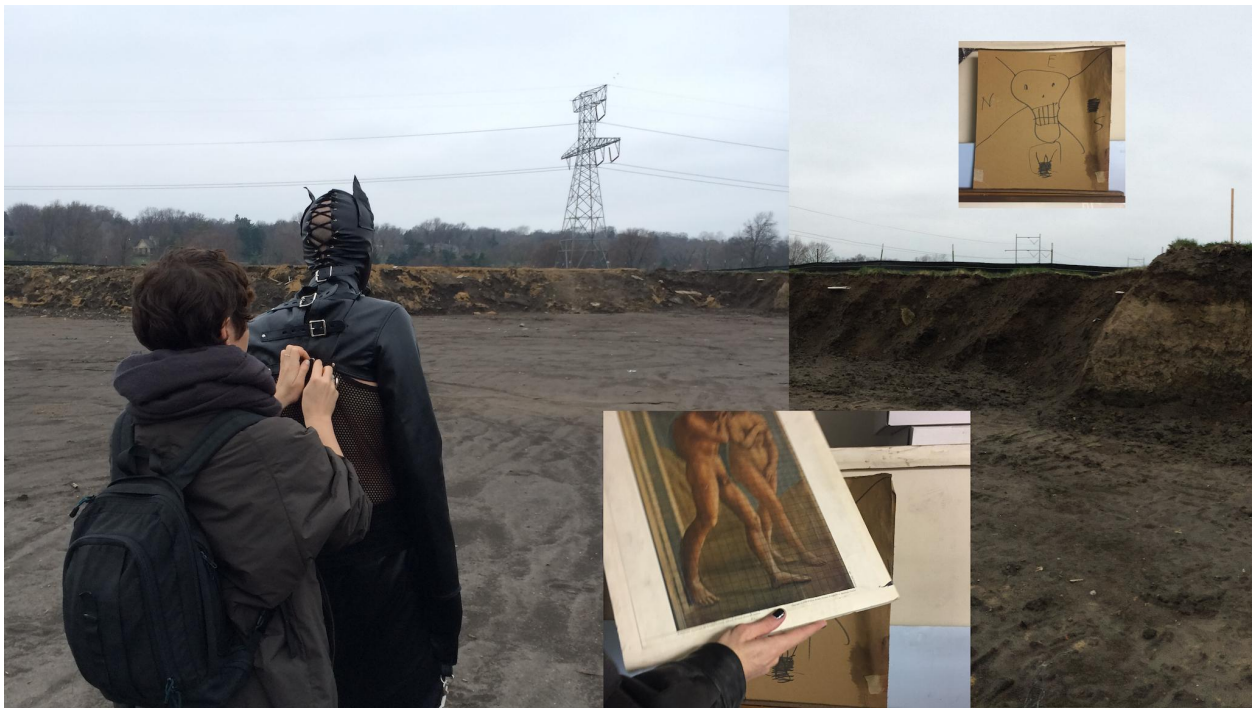
LOWD

LOIN
HELP

LOOK

KEEP THIS FAR APART
LOIN

love is lost
loss needs love
love to lose
love to be lost
lost to be in love
out of love
love living in loss
lose life
lost time
lost in time
love to live
lost to live
life is lost
love is love
love love love
lost loss lose
lose but love
love not loss
lost in love
in love with the city
loss in the city
lose the city
lost in the city



neighborhood watch (production stills), 2017
april vendetta & Elizabeth Lamb
Camera Operator Neil Griess & Elizabeth Lamb
Images from Sunset Hills & the basement of Kent Bellows' studio darkroom

TAX THE RICH
Paintings by Honey Jernquist

TAX THE RICH
TAX

CAUTION

CAUTION

CANCEL
STUDENT
DEBT

CANCEL
STUDENT
DEBT

R.I.P.

Here lies student debt, another tool of societal control. Good riddance.

open up
time
fleeting
feeling
fear
produced
induced
by society

as the ice melts
we become liquid once again
the water feeds the soil
nourishing the plants in hibernation below
barriers melting away
limitless potential
if only for a moment
transitional objects and space

HUMAN TRASH DUMP is an open digital archive founded in 2015 that invites contributions of audio, text, image, and video files to be hosted and disseminated as material, tools, handbooks, puzzles, and keys. Participants stream, download, share, and remix archived fragments to expand collective intimacy. Data is stored in a dump not a cloud.